

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE DR. DANIEL COLLINS

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 7, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to recognize the passing of one of our notable pioneers, Dr. Daniel Collins. Dr. Collins died this month at age 91, leaving an enduring legacy to the people of Marin County, where he lived, to those of the San Francisco Bay Area, where he worked and taught, and to generations of black Americans across the country.

A practicing dentist, Dr. Collins was the first black man to teach at the University of California, San Francisco School of Dentistry.

"It opened the doors for others," says his son, Chuck Collins.

After his retirement from dentistry, he served on the board of directors of the San Francisco Dental Society, the trustees of the American Fund for Dental Education and as a member of the house of delegates of the California Dental Association. Moreover, such pioneering efforts extended beyond his professional life. Dr. Collins founded the first black-owned savings and loan in San Francisco, for example, as well as the San Francisco chapter of the Urban League, later known as the Bay Area Urban League.

Elberta Eriksson worked with Dr. Collins in those early days of the Urban League and remembers helping him promote awareness of discrimination in employment.

"I would see something on the college bulletin board announcing a job on Market Street or something," she says. "When I would walk in to apply, they would say I was too qualified. Then I would report back to the Urban League and they would follow up."

She notes that Dr. Collins' intention was to help blacks to fair employment before there were fair employment laws.

As a pioneer, Dr. Collins felt called to mentor young people, and he and his wife, DeReath, were activists in their community as members of various groups, such as the Marin African Coalition. Together they helped to found MARC—Malin Aid to Retarded Children—now known as Lifehouse, a residential and counseling center for people with developmental disabilities located in San Rafael.

In 1960, former Gov. Pat Brown appointed Dr. Collins to the State Board of Education, which 6 years later approved a new history text that recognized the contributions of women and minorities. He was also named a Distinguished Alumnus by UCSF School of Dentistry, and a Local Hero by Bay Area television station KQED. His alma mater, Paine College, even named a library after him.

"But he had absolutely no ego whatsoever," says Regina Carey, a family friend and Dr. Collins' personal assistant for many years. "He would do all kinds of things and get all kinds of accolades and it never went to his head." Among Dr. Collins' pioneering efforts,

she notes, was his selection as the first black to head a national campaign for a presidential election, when he supported Adlai Stevenson. Collins also helped create the Sun-Reporter newspaper in San Francisco and the Church for the Fellowship of All People, one of the first nondenominational, interracial churches in the country.

But perhaps Dr. Collins' greatest contribution will never be marked by an award or a plaque or a resolution. Perhaps it will be the one few people ever know about—which is this: In the early 1950s, when Dr. Collins and his wife tried to buy a home in Mill Valley, long a summer resort area for San Franciscans and an all-white town in an almost all-white county, a deed restriction prevented the homeowner from selling to a black man. Local real estate agents offered to buy the house to keep the black family out. That the doctor and his wife were successful in purchasing their home and moving into the town eventually changed the landscape for future generations of black families in Marin.

But then, Dr. Collins did that in all areas of his life, in his own quiet way. That is why, Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and courage of Dr. Daniel Collins.

CELEBRATING UPPER DUBLIN
HIGH SCHOOL'S VETERANS HIS-
TORY PROJECT PARTICIPATION

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 7, 2007

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Upper Dublin High School in Upper Dublin Township, PA on their outstanding participation in the Veterans History Project of the Library of Congress. Students and teachers have contributed their time and skills to preserving the remarkable experiences of our war veterans from all service branches, from World War I to the present day Iraq War, as well as the civilians who supported them. I am privileged to represent these students and teachers in Congress.

The Veterans History Project preserves the legacy of those who have served through the establishment of a permanent national collection, housed in the Library of Congress, of videotaped and recorded interviews, written memoirs, and wartime letters, diaries, and photographs. Stories and materials are available to anyone visiting the Library. In addition, a Web page is created for each veteran who contributes an interview.

As our Nation's World War II and Korean Veterans grow older, it is critical that we record their stories. Their experiences offer a priceless window into their dedication and love of country. As the daughter of a Korean War veteran, this effort has special personal meaning for me. We have much to learn from those who have served our Nation, and I wholeheartedly support this important project.

On this Veterans Day, November 12, 2007, I am proud to recognize Upper Dublin High School's Veterans History Project participation at a special event, "Preserving Their Stories: A Salute to Veterans History Project Volunteers," at the Hiway Theatre in Jenkintown. This special celebration will bring together Americans, both young and older, with veterans of all ages, to honor their common service to their fellow citizens and country.

Madam Speaker, once again I congratulate all of the Veterans History Project participants for their contributions to capturing the experiences of war veterans, thus honoring the lives and contributions of these extraordinary Americans.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF ST. ADALBERT
PARISH IN TOLEDO, OHIO

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 7, 2007

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize St. Adalbert Parish. On October 28, 2007, Saint Adalbert Parish in Toledo, Ohio celebrated its naissance into the north Toledo Polish Community. This 100th anniversary commemorates the formative role St. Adalbert's had in helping shape a vibrant Toledo, while centering an ethnic community of largely citizens of Polish descent. The celebration, commenced with Mass, reminded those attendees of their proud Polish heritage that molded north Toledo, but also northwest Ohio. For this celebration marked a day that spoke to the importance of commemorating important ethnic communities in America because these immigrant-based groups have enriched America's heritage.

Approximately 170 years ago, the banks of the Maumee River welcomed the first Polish immigrant with the family name Vistula, a name shared with the central river of Poland. Following this initial arrival, Toledo attracted more Polish pioneers from Kraków, the medieval capital of Poland and from Warsaw, Poland's current capital in the Mazowsze region. However, during the 19th century, the overwhelming majority of Polish settlers came from the western territories. These western territories of Poland were controlled by the Germans. Poles longed to escape the religious and linguistic persecution of the infamous "Kulturkamt" instituted by Otto von Bismarck, subsequently followed by the "Ha-Ka-Ta" program of colonization by buying up Polish lands.

The specific origins of Poles fleeing German maltreatment are known. Most came from Poznań province, the seat of Poland's earliest Roman Catholic cathedral. Other Poles came from the Pałuki region around the county of Znin. This region rests immediately to the northwest of the Kujawy region around Gniezno. Upon finding a sight of white eagles

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

here, Prince Lech established this as the capital and further, the white eagle became the national coat-of-arms.

Additionally, Poles migrated to America at the beginning of the 20th Century through the First World War. They arrived from the Austrian-held southern Poland, Zakopane with Gorale culture, Rzeszów, Lwow, Russian territories of Kujawy, and Wiłno, the modern capital of Lithuania.

Regardless of their ancestral region, Polish immigrants contributed greatly to Toledo's growing labor forces. By 1920, people of Polish origin constituted the largest foreign-born group in Toledo and Lucas County. These settlers accounted for at least one quarter of the population of northwest Ohio, eventually spilling over into southeastern Michigan. Toledo was the largest city in northwest Ohio with a population of over 300,000 people. Residents of Polish ancestry now number over 60,000.

Given Poland's special relationship with the Catholic Church, when Poles came to inhabit Toledo, naturally, the Catholic Church became the bastion of their communities. Indeed its establishment predated the formation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Toledo itself. By 1879, the Lagrange street district (known as "Lagrinka" by Poles) hosted the first Polish parish under the patronage of Saint Hedwig, Queen of Poland. The Polish Lagrinka district rapidly expanded into the beginning of the 20th century. By 1907, Bishop Ignatius Horstmann of Cleveland established a second Polish parish in the Lagrange Street district as a division of St. Hedwig Parish. The bishop assigned Fr. Jozef Wachowski, a young priest who worked in Cleveland, to begin the new parish by October 18, 1907 with Park Street as the boundary line. The old church building of St. Hedwig housed the first parish meeting on February 23, 1908.

By March 4, 1908, Bishop Horstmann approved the choice of St. Adalbert as the namesake and patron of the new parish. The official announcement of the parish patron saint was made on March 15, 1908. A nine-room cottage on the property was used as the pastor's house. By November of 1908, Fr. Wachowski signed a contract for a combination church/school building, and a pastoral residence. The first spade of ground for the new church was turned on December 1, 1908, at 12 o'clock noon.

Auxiliary Bishop Joseph Kudelka laid the cornerstone on May 2, 1909. Representatives of all the Polish parishes in the Toledo and Rossford areas, and parishes from Ironville in east Toledo attended this ceremony. The church school was finished in October 1909. Work started on the rectory in February of 1909. A demonstration of Catholic Polish people which has never been equaled in Toledo took place Sunday, September 18, 1910 when the Right Reverend Bishop from Chicago dedicated St. Adalbert Church and School on Lagrange and Oakland Streets. The parade to follow showcased all societies, military and religious, of all the Polish churches. Bishop Paul P. Rhode was the first and only Polish bishop in the United States, leading nearly 3,000,000 Catholic Poles and more than 800 churches. By October 1909, Fr. Wachowski moved into the new rectory, followed by a sister's convent in 1915.

St. Adalbert Parish eventually became the largest parish in the diocese; thus, it was necessary to build a new, separate church to sus-

tain the parish members. On April 19, 1927, parish supporters laid the cornerstone to the present magnificent church. This church, built between the church-school and the parish house in the Spanish Mission style, was 145 feet long and 75 feet wide with a 100-foot tower at one side. September 18, 1927 celebrated the first Mass of the new church. The new St. Adalbert Church was dedicated by Bishop Samuel A. Stritch on April 22, 1928, which also marked the 25th anniversary of Fr. Wachowski's ordination to the priesthood.

After the new church was built, the Great Depression came. Father Czarnecki inherited the debt of the church building. However, Fr. Czarnecki introduced and distributed financial booklets to list all the contributions of each member during the year. Due to the priest's business acumen, the building debt was paid.

Parishioners of Saint Adalbert have been involved in numerous organizations. These members of the parish organized a number of societies: St. Adalbert Society, St. Casimir's and St. Joseph's Societies, St. Michael Society (men), Altar-Rosary Society (women), and Young Ladies Society (girls), St. Theresa and Holy Rosary Sodality, the Ladies' Guild, the Young People's Friendly Circle, the Catholic Order of Foresters, Court No. 1865, LCBA Branch No. 1434 and the Altar Boys' League. From these organizations and tight-knit community, Saint Adalbert was an anchor for the neighborhood.

The church buttressed a parish school that became a site of advancement for young people for generations. The selfless contributions of the teachers, more notably, the Felician Sisters ensured the students received a top-notch education, but nurtured students who were dedicated and devoted to serve their fellow man, community and country. Rev. J.P. Wachowski requested the services of the Felician Sisters. The future welfare of the Polish pioneers lay in their education and training by a religious community of their own nationality. Retaining some ethnic identity was essential for those separated from their mother country by a force of circumstances. The Felician Sisters have taught in Toledo since 1883, nine years after five Sisters arrived in Polonia, Wisconsin from Poland to establish the first U.S. Foundation. The religious community was founded in Warsaw, Poland in 1855 by Mother M. Angela, eventually being housed in Livonia, Michigan in 1936. The sisters became an integral part of the community, the elementary schools, high schools, religious education centers, parish religious programs, a college hospital, home for dependent children and a home for the aged. The Congregation of Sisters of Saint Felix has been teaching at the St. Adalbert Parish for 98 years.

The original St. Adalbert Parish attracted about 150 families. Upon completion of the new parish, more than 1,000 families claimed Saint Adalbert as their parish. Presently, approximately 550 household families are registered at St. Adalbert Parish.

In lieu of current trends of former vibrant Polish communities, two parishes were superfluous to meet the needs of the community. Thus, to keep alive the Polish churches of North Toledo, in July of 2005, St. Adalbert Parish and St. Hedwig Parish were twinned, staying separate parishes but one community. What once partitioned the north Toledo Polish neighborhood has now become united. In fact, the parish schools of Saint Hedwig and Saint

Adalbert joined, creating Pope John Paul II School, tangibly representing this union.

Indeed the story of 100 years of activity can never be told in its entirety; but the contributions of the Felicians, priests and laity, who served as lecturers, ushers, Eucharistic ministers, choir members, musicians, youth athletic coaches, and skit, dance and musical choreographers nurtured the joy of community commemorated during its 100th anniversary.

October 2007 marks the 100th anniversary of St. Adalbert Parish. A year-long celebration begins with the blessing of the statue of our late Pope John Paul II. May God bless St. Adalbert Parish—all its founders and inheritors—and our beloved community, and city.

TRIBUTE TO MIKE FLYNT, A MEMBER OF THE SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 7, 2007

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Madam Speaker, I stand today to recognize an outstanding individual in my district. Recently, Mike Flynt, at age 59, became the second oldest athlete to participate in NCAA collegiate football. Mr. Flynt is a linebacker for the Sul Ross State University Lobos and has exemplified himself as a team leader and an inspiration to the younger players on the team. This weekend marks the final game of the season for the Sul Ross Lobos and I would like to congratulate the team on a great season and to Mike for providing leadership and inspiration that certainly contributed to the team's success.

Mike Flynt is not only an inspiration on the football field; he is also an expert in physical fitness. He is a certified Master of Fitness Sciences and a youth fitness trainer. He has worked as a fitness and conditioning specialist at the Universities of Nebraska, Oregon and Texas A&M. Mr. Flynt is also the inventor of a portable gym system that received a government patent and also a founding member of the international Strength and Conditioning Association.

Across the Nation, people have heard the story of Mike Flynt. He has received countless e-mails and letters congratulating him on his accomplishments. His popularity has also drawn donations to the University in order to fund scholarships and to purchase needed athletic equipment.

Because of this impact, I have asked President Bush to appoint Mr. Flynt to the Council of Physical Fitness and Sports. He would be a perfect candidate to serve on the council due to his lifelong commitment to health and fitness. He would serve as an inspiration to people of all ages and would be a wonderful addition to the Council.

I would like to reiterate my amazement at the accomplishments of Mike Flynt. I recognize him today for being an inspiration to his community and to the Nation. We should keep the story of Mike Flynt in mind and remember that age should not be a barrier to our dreams.